

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

At Charleston

A PROCLAMATION

By the Governor

WHEREAS, beginning on September 21, 2026, a series of storm systems moved across West Virginia, producing repeated periods of heavy rainfall and thunderstorms across portions of the State, including Boone and Lincoln Counties; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2026, slow-moving thunderstorms produced intense rainfall across portions of Boone and Lincoln Counties, resulting in significant flash flooding and rapidly deteriorating conditions in numerous communities; and

WHEREAS, rapid and excessive rainfall has overwhelmed streams, creeks, drainage systems, low-water crossings, and transportation infrastructure, resulting in flooded roadways, road closures, and hazardous travel conditions throughout the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, flooding has impacted communities within Boone and Lincoln Counties and has required local emergency response operations, including water rescues, road closures, and other actions necessary to protect life and property; and

WHEREAS, continued high water, saturated ground conditions, and the potential for additional rainfall may result in further flooding, landslides, infrastructure damage, debris, and other hazards that could further threaten residents and impede emergency response and recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of these storms pose a severe and continuing threat to the health, safety, welfare, and property of the citizens of Boone and Lincoln Counties of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, several localized areas received near-record rainfall in a matter of hours, unleashing rapid flash floods, mudslides, and widespread water rescues across multiple counties; and

WHEREAS, this new storm system resulted in significant damage to homes, businesses, public infrastructure, and essential services; and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b) authorizes the declaration of a State of Emergency in Boone and Lincoln Counties to allow for maximum coordination of all available resources to address the aforementioned threats; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with my authority as Governor, it has been deemed necessary and beneficial to declare a State of Emergency, pursuant to West Virginia Code § 15-5-6(b), for Boone and Lincoln Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and in view of the foregoing, do hereby **FIND AND DECLARE** that a State of Emergency exists and continues in Boone and Lincoln Counties and that said State of Emergency is to remain in effect for thirty days unless terminated by subsequent Proclamation. In response to this State of Emergency, I have **INVOKED** the emergency powers set forth in West Virginia Code § 15-5-6; **UTILIZED** the Emergency Operations Plan, as necessary; **ORDERED** appropriate personnel and resources to prepare to mobilize and respond to any emergency that may develop; and **DELEGATED** certain administrative powers to the Director of the West Virginia Emergency Management Division, as necessary, to facilitate the provision of essential emergency services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of
Charleston, State of West Virginia, this

Twenty-Third Day of September, in the Year
of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, in
the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the
State.



By the State

PATRICK MORRISY
GOVERNOR

Krist Warner
SECRETARY OF STATE